

# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICE,

BLACKROD, Near CHORLEY.

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## Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health

For 1913

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Blackrod*

*District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report upon the health and sanitary condition of your district for the year 1913, together with the usual analyses of births, deaths, infectious diseases, etc., in Tables I.—IV.

**BIRTH-RATE.**—During 1913 112 births have been registered (60 boys and 52 girls), shewing a rate of 28.3 per 1,000 of population. The average number of births for the past 5 years is 106; the average rate is 27.1. This year again we are slightly above the average, the births and rate shewing a further increase. In 1910 there were only 95 births; 1911, 104; 1912, 108; and this year, 112.

**DEATH-RATE.**—The number of deaths registered in the district is 53, with rate of 13.39. Two deaths of Blackrod residents occurred outside the district, so this brings our number up to 55, with a rate of 13.89. This shews an increase on last year's, which was 13.3. The average number of deaths for the last 5 years is 52.6, with rate 13.5. We are only slightly above the average. There are 20 deaths under 1 year of age out of 112 births, making a rate of 178.5. This

does not compare favourably with last year's, when there were 12 out of 108 births, with a rate of 111.1. We have 9 deaths under 15 years, 4 between 15 and 25 years, 4 between 25 and 45 years, 9 between 45 and 65, and 9 over 65 years of age.

The causes of death I tabulate as follows:—

Zymotic Diseases.....	{	Diarrhœa	...	7
		Enteric	...	1
		Measles	...	4
Non-Tuberculous Disease of Lungs	{	Influenza	...	1
		Phthisis	...	3
		Bronchitis	...	3
		Pneumonia	...	4
		Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs		1
		Cancer	...	1
		Meningitis	...	2
		Organic Heart Disease		3
		Nephritis	...	1
		Puerperal Fever	...	1
Congenital Debility		7		
Violent Deaths	...	2		
Suicide	...	1		
Other Defined Diseases		13		
				—
Total				55

It will be seen that Zymotic disease accounts for 12 deaths. This was owing to two epidemics we had, one of diarrhœa, which was the most severe we have had for years. Scarcely a house escaped, and 7 infants of under one year died of it. There was also a measles epidemic. We closed the National School for a period of three weeks in April. The epidemic was confined to one part of the district only, so it was not necessary to close the other schools.

Measles is not a notifiable disease, but I estimate the number of cases at about 50, with 4 deaths. The closing of the school and disinfecting seemed to check the spread. This year also we have 3 deaths from Phthisis. There were none last year, and 2 in 1911.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—We have 20 deaths under 1 year of age out of 112 births, making a rate of 178.5 per 1,000 births. This is very high, as last year it was only 111.1. In fact, it has not been so high for a number of years, but, as I have before stated, 7 infants died of diarrhœa.

Causes of death are as follow :—

Meningitis	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	...	...	7
Gastritis	...	...	...	2
Congenital Debility	...	...	...	7
Other causes	...	...	...	1
				—
Total	...	...	...	20

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—There are 12 deaths from Zymotic disease, viz.: Diarrhœa 7, Enteric 1, Measles 4. This gives a rate of 3.03, an increase on last year, which was 2.31.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—During the year 48 cases of infectious disease have been notified, viz.: 36 cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria 2, Erysipelas 3, Puerperal Fever 2, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 3, and other forms of Tuberculosis 2. Last year the number of Scarlet Fever cases was 24, and this was unusually large, but 36 this year is a tremendous increase. I cannot say that at any time there was an epidemic. The cases were spread over the whole year, in fact, no month was clear, neither were the cases confined to any special district. 23 cases of Scarlet Fever were treated in hospital, and 2 cases of Diphtheria. Total, 25 cases treated in hospital.

In 1904 there were 79 cases of infectious disease.

„ 1905	„	19	„	„
„ 1906	„	17	„	„
„ 1907	„	28	„	„
„ 1908	„	12	„	„
„ 1909	„	38	„	„
„ 1910	„	24	„	„
„ 1911	„	16	„	„
„ 1912	„	40	„	„
„ 1913	„	48	„	„

Average for past 10 years is 32.1.

Last year the number of infectious diseases was the largest since 1904, but there is an increase on that this year. I can only repeat what I said last year, that I can offer no explanation as to the cause. Most of the cases were promptly sent to hospital, and the houses were thoroughly disinfected and beautified.

**SANITARY CONDITION OF DISTRICT.**—This is fairly satisfactory, and generally in accordance with existing bye-laws. 44 flush water closets have been installed in lieu of privies. This is not so many as last year, but the erection of w.c.'s was not pressed in the summer because of the scarcity of water, owing to the continued drought. The conveniences in the township now are 436 privies, 282 flush water closets, 38 waste water closets, 23 pails, 295 ashpits, and 242 lins. During the year 132 notices have been served under the following heads:—

Notices to Limewash...	...	...	15
Unsatisfactory Closets	...	...	87
Dampness	...	...	6
Black Smoke	...	...	1
Unpaved and Dirty Back Yards	...	...	7
Dangerous Colliery Shaft	...	...	1
Defective Gullies	...	...	4

Defective Spouting	...	...	1
Defective Stench Pipe	...	...	1
Defective Drains	...	...	3
Stopped Drains	...	...	5
Dirty Premises	...	...	1

Total 132.

The above nuisances have been or are being attended to.

The number of houses in the district is now 858, 9 new houses having been erected.

The number of houses inspected under the Housing Act during the year is 139. Notices have been served, and the work is progressing satisfactorily.

INSPECTION OF WORKSHOPS.—Collieries 4, Bleachworks 4, Weaving Sheds 4, other small workshops 12. Total, 24.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS of one hour's duration of works' chimneys 11.

SCAVENGING RETURNS.—During the year the scavenging department emptied 1,147 ashpits, 10,134 bins, and removed 2,946 loads of refuse.

SEWAGE.—The Sewage Works and Irrigation Lands have been inspected regularly, and the treatment of sewage is very satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is excellent in character, and has been just sufficient for our needs during the year, as, in spite of the drought, it was not necessary on any occasion to discontinue a regular supply.

DAIRIES & COWSHEDS.—These have been periodically inspected, and are now satisfactory as regards air space and cleanliness.

BAKEHOUSES & SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—We have no public bakehouses or slaughter-houses in the district, but the private ones have been periodically inspected, and are satisfactory.

WORKSHOPS.—These are all in good condition, well ventilated, and generally satisfactory.

LODGING HOUSES & OBNOXIOUS TRADES.—No ordinary lodging houses in the district, and no obnoxious trades carried on.

FOOD SUPPLY, &c.—Satisfactory throughout the year.

GENERAL HEALTH.—This has been only fairly good. We had two epidemics—measles and diarrhœa. Then the number of infectious diseases shows a big increase, chiefly scarlet fever, of which there have been 36 cases, but not one case of typhoid throughout the year. This latter fact points to our sanitary arrangements being fairly efficient.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

**J. W. UNSWORTH, M.O.H.**

TABLE 1.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1913, AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

## BLACKROD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths of Non-residents registered in the District		Deaths not regist'd in the District		Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 year of age.		Deaths belonging to the District. At all ages	
		Un. corrected Number	Nett Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate
1908 ...	4,000	...	116	29.0	..	...	...	...	13	112.06	60	15	
1909 ..	4,000	...	107	26.75	...	...	...	...	13	121.49	55	13.75	
1910 ...	4,000	...	95	23.75	...	...	...	...	7	73.6	42	10.5	
1911 ...	3,896	...	104	26.6	...	...	...	...	16	153.84	54	13.8	
1912 ...	3,896	107	108	27.7	44	11.2	1	9	12	111.1	52	13.3	
1913 ...	3,957	111	112	28.3	53	13.39	...	2	20	178.5	55	13.89	

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 2,388.

Total of population at all ages, 3,957. Number of inhabited houses, 858. Average No. of persons per house, 4.6.  
(At Census, 1911).



TABLE II.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING  
THE YEAR 1913.

*BLACKROD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.*

Notifiable Disease.	No. of Cases Notified.							Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	
Diphtheria	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	3	1	...	...	...	...	2	...
Scarlet fever	36	2	8	26	...	...	...	23
Puerperal fever	2	...	..	..	...	2	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Other forms of     ,,	2	...	...	1	..	1	..	...
Totals	48	3	9	28	3	3	2	25

Isolation Hospital (Joint), Fall Birch, Horwich.



TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING YEAR 1913.

*BLACKROD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.*

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole district at subjoined ages.								
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Measles ...	4	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Phthisis (Pul. Tub.)	3	...	...	...	..	2	...	1	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Meningitis ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bronchitis ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	...	1	...	..	...	1	1	...
Other Diseases of									
Respiratory Organs	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa & Enteritis	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding suicides..	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Suicide ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	.
Other Defined Disease's	14	3	1	...	1	...	1	3	5
Totals ...	55	20	5	3	1	4	4	9	9

Deaths—Certified, 53 ; Uncertified, 2.

Total Deaths in Institutions in the District.—Nil.

No Institutions in the district.

TABLE IV. INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

BLACKROD URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 months	3-6 months	9-12 months	Total deaths under one Year
All Causes:—								
Certified	3	2	...	5	3	7	5	20
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	6
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Premature Birth	1	2	...	3	...	2	...	3
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	4
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Totals	3	2	—	5	3	7	5	20

Nett Births in the year, legitimate, 106; illegitimate, 6.

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 14; illegitimate infants, 6.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR 1913,

FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BLACKROD.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.*

Premises.	Inspections.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	12
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	12
Total ... ..	24

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.—None.

3.—HOME WORK.—None.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS

	Number.
Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year	
Huyton Bleachworks ... ..	1
Woods' and Son's Colliery ... ..	1
Blackrod Weaving Shed ... ..	1
Arley Brick Co. ... ..	1
Cloggers ... ..	2
Shoemakers ... ..	1
Blacksmiths ... ..	1
Total number of workshops on Register ...	8

5.—OTHER MATTERS.—None.

